



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) Dunstan et al.

Serial No.: 09/389,782

Group Art Unit 1642

No.:

Filed: September 3, 1999

Examiner: Helms, L.

For: OPG Fusion Protein Compositions and Methods

Docket No.: A-604A

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 13 2003  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

# 20/F  
JW  
2/20/03

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the accompanying application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d) as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1 - 20.

Please amend the following claims:

21. (amended) A protein having a formula selected from the group consisting of  $R_1-R_2$  and  $R_1-L-R_2$ , wherein  $R_1$  is a Fc protein, or a variant or fragment thereof,  $R_2$  is a variant or fragment of an osteoprotegerin (OPG) protein comprising amino acids 22-401 as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2), and L is a linker, wherein the protein has the activity of decreasing bone resorption.

FC Free! to N-Terminals

fc-OPG

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"Express Mail" mail labeling number: EL360692797US

Date of Deposit: February 7, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

SI. ST. ANDREW  
Printed Name

SI. St. Andrew  
Signature